Appl. No. 09/997,652 Amdt. Dated April 19, 2005

Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

Submitted herewith are replacement sheets for Figs. 2, 4, 6-11 and a new Fig. 11 all of which

are labeled "Replacement Sheet" in conformity with 37 CFR §1.121.

Figures 2, 4 and 6-11 have been amended to include the separate reference numbers for the

first and second segments of the first and third grooves which have been added to the specification.

New Fig. 11 depicts a pressure-sensitive adhesive 28' that is used to detachably fix the body

fluid absorbent member to said cover member.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge receipt and review and approve the proposed

drawing amendment so that applicants' can proceed with having replacement drawing sheets

prepared and submitted.

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• • REMARKS/ARGUMENTS • •

The Official Action of January 19, 2005 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the

changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following comments, are

believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

On page 2 of the Official Action the Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR

1.183(a). Under this objection to the drawings the Examiner stated that the figures did not show a

detachably fixed absorbent member and cover member as claimed in claim 8.

In response to the objections to the drawings, applicants are herewith submitting a new Fig.

11 that depicts a pressure-sensitive adhesive 28' that is used to detachably fix the body fluid

absorbent member to the cover member. It is understood that the pressure-sensitive adhesive is only

one embodiment of a means to detachably fix the body fluid absorbent member to the cover member

and that the specification also teaches a mechanical fastener that is known under the trademark

MAGICTAPE.

On page 3 of the Official Action the Examiner has objected to the specification for not

providing proper antecedent basis for the "first segment" and "second segment" of the grooves.

In response to this objection the specification has been amended to include a description of

the "first segment" and "second segment" of the grooves that is commensurate and supported by the

original drawings. In addition reference numbers for the first and second segments of the grooves

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have been relied upon and added to Figs. 2, 4 and 6-11 to make the drawings commensurate with the

specification.

The Examiner further noted that the specification did provide proper antecedent basis for the

"crotch portion." In order to resolve this basis of the objection to the specification, claim 1 has been

changed to recite the "crotch region."

The changes to the specification and drawings are believed to address and overcome the

outstanding objection to the specification.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Under this rejection the Examiner correctly notes that the first segment and second segment

of the grooves do not extend into the front and rear end portions 26 and 27.

In response to the rejected of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph independent

claim 1 has been changed to recite that the first segment and second segment of the grooves extend

into the front and rear waist regions and are excluded from extending into the front and rear end

portions 26 and 27.

By the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that each of the

at least one groove consists of a first segment that extends into the crotch region and the front waist

region and a second segment that extends into the crotch region and the rear waist region, the first

and second segments of each individual ones of the at least one groove being aligned with one

another longitudinally and being excluded from extending across a longitudinal center of the crotch

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region of the diaper and being excluded form extending into the front and rear end portions of the diaper.

Support for this change to independent claim I can be readily found in the drawings.

It is noted that this change to claim 1 was made to more clearly recite the structure which was previously recited in claim 1.

There are no prior art rejections in the Office Action.

The changes presented herein for the specification, claims and drawings are believed to overcome all the outstanding rejections and objections.

Therefore, entry of the changes to the specification, claims, and drawings and an early allowance of the claims are believed to be in order.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved; the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of

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time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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